

CLASSIFICATION_

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC KVP Mechanized Division Potsdam

EVALUATION_ PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT_

DATE OBTAINED_ DATE PREPARED_ 8 November 1955

REFERENCES_

PAGES_ ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)_

REMARKS_

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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On 9 September 1955, the KVP regiment from the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam probably returned to its home station from the summer camp. Vehicles observed included 30 trucks, 2 SU-76 and 5 additional SP guns which were parked in the kaserne area. On 9 and 13 September, two companies with a medium-blue service color were engaged in field training on Bornstedter Feld and on the road to Forst. 1

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Between 15 and 24 September, intensive training activity including field training, firing practice, hand grenade throwing and close-order drill was observed at the kaserne, on Ruinenberg and on Bornstaedter Feld. Two companies with two heavy machine guns each participated daily in the field training. They were supported by four SU-100s. Other SP guns observed at the kaserne included three SU-76 which were used for instruction or maintenance service. At noon on 15 September, 12 trucks occupied by 18 KVPs each returned to the installation. The KVPs, who wore medium-blue service color, returned apparently from night training. On 21 September, eight trucks occupied by at least 20 KVPs each left the kaserne and went toward Werder. The KVPs who wore denim uniforms were probably detached for harvest employment. 1

On the morning of 29 September, the regiment was lined up on Bornstedter Feld. In addition to the troops on foot, the unit included 16 to 18 armored personnel carriers occupied by 10 KVPs and a driver each, 3 SU-100, 3 SU-76 and 2 trucks which towed an 82-mm mortar and carried 6 KVPs each. Following the arrival of officers of the headquarters including Lieutenant Colonel Munch (fnu) from Villa Ingenheim in four sedans, the KVPs dismounted from the trucks and a combat practice was held with a contingent of equal strength on either side. On 1 October, the kaserne was occupied by 1,400 to 1,500 KVPs. 1

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4. On 13 September, the Garde du Corps Kaserne was occupied by about 400 KVPs wearing red-bordered black collar patches who probably returned from the troop training grounds on 9 and 10 September. Weapons observed included 9 x 37-mm AA guns. Service-of-the-piece drill was done with some of the guns. On 23 and 29 September, 18 x 37-mm AA guns were observed at the installation. The construction of another target range began in the western section of the kaserne on Stalin Allee. 2
5. On 20 September, vehicles observed in the garages and in the yard of the General Wever Kaserne included 24 sidecar motorcycles, about 3 x 57-mm AT guns, 6 T-34 tanks, 6 x 82-mm mortars and 60 trucks including 6 radio trucks. Between 8 and 30 September, up to 12 trucks, each occupied with 18 KVPs wearing medium-blue service color, repeatedly went to the target ranges on Marquardter Chaussee for rifle firing practice and field training. 3
6. A KVP officer stated that the regiment from the Ruinenberg Kaserne returned to its home station from the summer camp on 7 September. A three-day field exercise in conjunction with Soviet troops was held prior to the return. The Soviets represented an enemy who advanced from the west, while the KVP mechanized regiment was employed as rear guard of a large unit. The combat mission was to reconnoiter the strength of the advancing enemy without contact during the night. During day-time, the troops were in bivouacs. After termination of the field exercise, the Soviet officers had stated that the regiment had fulfilled its mission satisfactorily. During the four weeks after 7 September, the regiment was to detach two companies daily for harvest employment. 4
7. Between 1 and 12 September, the sentries guarding the KVP installation in Potsdam between Eiche and Golm wore yellow-bordered black collar patches. 3
8. Between 8 September and 5 October, the KVP installation in Premnitz was occupied by about 150 men who did fatigue duty, maintenance service, and firing practice in the Moegelin training area. The installation was guarded by sentries with red-bordered black collar patches. No heavy weapons were seen. Vehicular traffic between Premnitz, Rathenow and Neue Schleuse indicated that the bulk of the unit had probably moved to the area of the Ferchels - Mahlitz troop training grounds and the Goettlin-Cruetz area. Field exercises by KVP engineer troops were continuously held in the latter. 5
9. During the night of 5 and 6 September, the bulk of the KVP units left the Ferchels - Mahlitz troop training grounds. Most of the units were motorized. On 12 September, about 180 KVPs carrying full field pack were observed between Ebelguende and Steckelsdorf marching toward Goettlin. 5,6
10. During the night of 25 September, KVP units which came from the direction of Havelberg arrived at the troop training grounds. Some of the units were equipped with 122-mm field howitzers. KVPs stated that their units came from Gloewen. Following the arrival of the KVP units, artillery firing practice was held daily between Karlsthal and Hohengoehrener Damm. 7

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11. On 26 September, KVP units from Oranienburg were allegedly entrained at Wudicke.
12. On 7 October, no KVP troops were said to be stationed at the Schellene-Wudicke troop training grounds.
13. On 6 September, elements, mostly former recruits, of the KVP units from the Oranienburg Concentration Camp moved to Kietz (?). Other elements, including tanks, were allegedly in the woods near Lehnitz, while a third contingent was said to hold field exercises in the Gross-Schoenebeck area. The elements in these areas probably rotated every two weeks. On about 13 September, Unit Hoffmann with about 1,000 KVPs was observed at its quarters. 8
14. On 3 October, the KVP installation at the Oranienburg Concentration Camp was apparently lightly occupied. Elements of the KVP units were still in Kietz (?), while other elements were detached for harvest employment. It was said that about 300 KVPs with a three-year service were probably due for discharge in late October.

1. Comment. During July, elements of the 2d Mecz Regt of Mechanized Division Potsdam from the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam were at the troop training grounds east of Kietz, while the bulk of the regiment has been stationed there since about early August 1955. SU-100s have been repeatedly reported from Potsdam since late 1954. It is believed that SU-100s also belong to at least one of the mechanized regiments of Mechanized Division Eggesin. Lieutenant Colonel Muench (fnu) is listed as a member of the Hq Mechanized Division Potsdam. The field exercises of the 2d Mecz Regt probably served as preparation for the fall inspection. 25X1
2. Comment. Since it is assumed that the AAA Regiment Altwarp of Mechanized Division Eggesin is equipped with 24 x 37-mm AA guns, either the total number of guns was not observed, or a contingent of the regiment had not yet returned to its home station. 25X1
3. Comment. The reconnaissance battalion, the signal battalion and small units of Mechanized Division Potsdam are stationed at the General Wever Kaserne. 25X1
4. Comment. A combined field exercise of Soviets and KVP units was previously mentioned. 25X1
5. Comment. In August 1955, stream crossing exercises were observed in the Goettlin (3 km north-northwest of Rathenow) area. Elements of the mortar regiment may possibly have also participated. 25X1
6. Comment. See paragraphs 1 and 6. 25X1
7. Comment. The Howitzer Artillery Regiment Cloewen was probably also stationed at the troop training grounds east of Kietz between late July and about mid-August 1955. The return to its home station after this period has not been observed. 25X1



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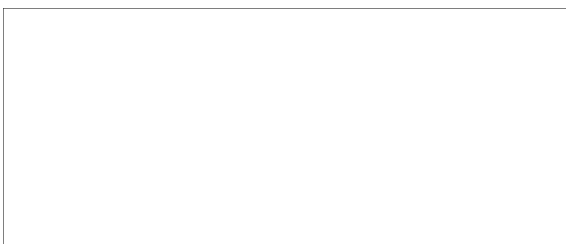
8.  Comment. Major Hoffmann (fnu) was first reported in late May 1955. He is believed to be the commanding officer of the tank regiment at the Oranienburg Concentration Camp. 

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 In late May 1955, Major Backhaus (fnu) was last confirmed as commanding officer of the 1st Mecz Regt at the Oranienburg Concentration Camp.

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